

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. to 25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic composition, comprising a cosmetically acceptable carrier containing:

(a) at least one fixing film-forming polymer ~~which~~ that is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, (1) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₂₀ alkyl acrylate, N-mono-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylacrylamide, N-mono-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylmethacrylamide, N,N-di-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylacrylamide and N, N-di-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylmethacrylamide, and (2) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and acrylic and methacrylic acids, the polymer having a structure comprising hydrophobic blocks onto which more hydrophilic blocks are attached via bi-functional units,

(b) at least one thickening agent ~~which~~ that is a cross-linked or non-cross-linked homopolymer or copolymer based on acrylic acid or methacrylic acid or acrylic and methacrylic acid, and

(c) at least one co-thickening agent ~~which~~ that is a non-cellulosic thickening polymer different from thickening agent (b), wherein the fixing film-forming polymer that is a branched block copolymer consists essentially of n-butyl acrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and allyl methacrylate ~~as a bifunctional monomer.~~

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 26, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

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29. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 28, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 1 and 5% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

30. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 26, wherein the thickening agent (b) is a cross-linked acrylic acid homopolymer.

31. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 26, wherein the thickening agent (b) is a copolymer of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid and a C₁₀₋₃₀ alkyl acrylate or methacrylate.

32. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 26, wherein the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.1 and 3% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

33. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 32, wherein the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.2 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

34. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 26, wherein the co-thickening agent (c) is of natural origin.

35. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 34, wherein the co-thickening agent (c) is guar gum, xanthan gum, scleroglucan gum, gelan gum, rhamsan gum, karaya gum, an alginate, maltodextrin, starch, or carob flour.

36. (Canceled).

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37. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 26, wherein the concentration of the co-thickening agent is between 0.05 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

38. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 37, wherein the concentration of the co-thickening agent is between 0.1 and 1% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

39. (Currently Amended) A method for the styling and fixing of hair, comprising applying to the hair a cosmetic composition comprising a cosmetically acceptable carrier containing:

(a) at least one fixing film-forming polymer ~~which~~ that is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, (1) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₂₀ alkyl acrylate, N-mono-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylacrylamide, N-mono-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylmethacrylamide, N,N-di-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylacrylamide and N,N-di-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylmethacrylamide, and (2) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and acrylic and methacrylic acids, the polymer having a structure comprising hydrophobic blocks onto which more hydrophilic blocks are attached via bi-functional units,

(b) at least one thickening agent ~~which~~ that is a homopolymer or copolymer based on acrylic acid or methacrylic acid or acrylic and methacrylic acid ~~which~~ that is cross-linked or non-cross-linked, and

(c) at least one co-thickening agent ~~which~~ that is a non-cellulosic thickening polymer different from thickening agent (b), wherein the composition has a viscosity of at least about 1.9 Pa.s.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic composition, comprising a cosmetically acceptable carrier containing:

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(a) at least one fixing film-forming polymer ~~which~~ that is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, (1) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₂₀ alkyl acrylate, N-mono-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylacrylamide, N-mono-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylmethacrylamide, N,N-di-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylacrylamide and N, N-di-(C₂₋₁₂) alkylmethacrylamide, and (2) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and acrylic and methacrylic acids, the polymer having a structure comprising hydrophobic blocks onto which more hydrophilic blocks are attached via bi-functional units,

(b) at least one thickening agent ~~which~~ that is a cross-linked or non-cross-linked homopolymer or copolymer based on acrylic acid or methacrylic acid or acrylic and methacrylic acid, and

(c) at least one co-thickening agent ~~which~~ that is guar gum, wherein the composition has a viscosity of at least about 1.9 Pa.s.

42. (Currently Amended) The cosmetic composition according to claim 41, wherein:

(a) said at least one fixing film-forming polymer is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, n-butyl acrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and allyl methacrylate ~~as a bifunctional monomer~~, and

(b) said at least one thickening agent is a cross-linked homopolymer based on acrylic acid.

43. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 42, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.1 and 3% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, and the concentration of the co-thickening agent (c) is between 0.05 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

44. (Previously Presented) The cosmetic composition according to claim 42, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight relative to the

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total weight of the composition, the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.2 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, and the concentration of the co-thickening agent (c) is between 0.1 and 1% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

45. (Currently Amended) The method for the styling and fixing of hair, comprising applying to the hair a cosmetic composition comprising a cosmetically acceptable carrier containing:

(a) at least one fixing film-forming polymer ~~which~~ that is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, (1) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of C_{1-20} alkyl acrylate, N-mono-(C_{2-12}) alkylacrylamide, N-mono-(C_{2-12}) alkylmethacrylamide, N,N-di-(C_{2-12}) alkylacrylamide and N,N-di-(C_{2-12}) alkylmethacrylamide, and (2) at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and acrylic and methacrylic acids, the polymer having a structure comprising hydrophobic blocks onto which more hydrophilic blocks are attached via bi-functional units,

(b) at least one thickening agent ~~which~~ that is a homopolymer or copolymer based on acrylic acid or methacrylic acid or acrylic and methacrylic acid ~~which~~ that is cross-linked or non-cross-linked, and

(c) at least one co-thickening agent ~~which~~ that is guar gum, wherein the composition has a viscosity of at least about 1.9 Pa.s, wherein the fixing film-forming polymer that is a branched block copolymer consists essentially of n-butyl acrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and allyl methacrylate as a ~~bifunctional monomer~~.

46. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 45, wherein:

(a) ~~said at least one fixing film-forming polymer is a branched block copolymer consisting essentially of, as principal monomers, n-butyl acrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and allyl methacrylate as a bifunctional monomer, and~~

(b) said at least one thickening agent is a cross-linked homopolymer based on acrylic acid.

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47. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 46, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.1 and 3% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, and the concentration of the co-thickening agent (c) is between 0.05 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

48. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 46, wherein the concentration of fixing film-forming polymer is between 0.1 and 10% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, the concentration of thickening agent (b) is between 0.2 and 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, and the concentration of the co-thickening agent (c) is between 0.1 and 1% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.